

Polit. Pamphlet
103.
THE
INQUISITOR.

CONTAINING

A full ANSWER to the *HYP-*
DOCTOR, No. 39. on the Screen and
BANK CONTRACT; shewing, that
the Iniquity of that Affair is not so much
as touched, much less defended, in that
Paper.

Together with an
ANSWER at large to the *FREE-*
BRITON, No. 94. published on *Thursday*,
September 16, 1731.

BEING A

Clear Refutation of the several CHARGES
urged by *That HIRELING, Francis Walsingham*,
against that truly honourable and worthy
PATRIOT, Mr. P. particularly from the
PRESENT of Parliamentary Proceedings
by the late King; the Two hundred Pounds
a Year Pension; and bringing his Relations
into Places.

*Quæ obijcis, Sibylla, quasi folia sunt, statimque
Rationis cito dispelluntur.* Lips. Const.

By THOMAS TRENCHARD, D. L. L.

NUMBER II.

To be Occasionally continued.

L O N D O N:

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16 Sep. 1731

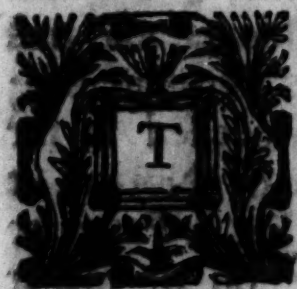
THE COURT OF COMMONS
IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED
DO PASS AN ACT
TO AMEND THE LAW
IN RESPECT OF THE
SUCCESSION TO THE
CROWN

ENACTED BY THE
SAYED PARLIAMENT
THAT WHEREAS
BY THE ACT
INTITLED
THE ACT
IN THAT BEHIND
THESE THINGS
CONSIDERED





THE INQUISITOR, &c.



THE Number of ministerial Writings is grown so large, and the Matter and Manner of them are frequently so extraordinary, that the *Inquisitor* can find but a short recess from that Labour which he has undertaken for the sake of his Country, in enquiring as to the Measures pursued, and the Topicks insisted on, in the Defence of those wise and excellent Persons; who, beside the usual standing Forces of Power, have at a vast expence, levied a *Corps* of *Penmen*, to be like *Hussars*, kept on continual Duty, and for the same worthy Purposes, *viz.* to Harass, Plunder and do Mischief, without Distinction.

Amongst these, tho' 'tis said as a Volunteer only, *i. e.* in hopes of a Pension, the *Hyp-Doctor* sallies furiously every *Tuesday*, and with an equal Mixture of Assurance, *Billingsgate*, and pert Stupidity, torments whoever will pay so dear a Fine for his Curiosity as to become his Reader, with the oddest, most unintelligible, round about Nonsense, such as never appeared any where else in print except in his own and the *Ora-tor's* Advertisements. Such I appeal to, all who have had Patience enough to read it, is the Merit of the Paper kept alive by the industrious and indefatigable Arts of its Publisher rather than its Author, by dint of bold Promises in Advertisements, and puff Panegyrick Paragraphs on its Performance; which, if they have ever succeeded so far as to procure it any degree of Notice, it will then justify my employing a Page or two to prevent its imposing on or rather confounding even the weakest Judgment with regard to a famous Contract with the BANK, which, as a Subject ready to catch the Readers Eye, he had promised to consider, nay, and to defend; a Point of which he says truly the Court Authors had been shy, and on which not even *Ulrick D'Ypres* himself, famed as he is for Assurance, had never thought fit to venture.

In No. 39. the doughty Author of the *Hyp-Doctor* comes to what he calls the Performance

formance of his Promise; in which after having spent more than half his Time and Paper in what I defy any of his Readers to find his meaning, (charitably supposing that he had one when he wrote it) he at last vouchsafes to come to something which looks like the Purpose, which even then amounts to no more than a lame Narration of the making that Contract, in which what has hitherto been taken for the most nefarious Proceeding, is so far from being cleared, that it is not so much as touched, unless we should stretch the following Paragraph to that Purpose, *viz. If any Purchasers at Four hundred were ignorant, or too sanguine, was their Ignorance or Over-confidence, the Crime of Mr. Walpole? No, they ought to have informed themselves better, and not to have been fantastical, if they were so, after they saw Stock precipitate from One thousand to Four hundred.* How wretched an Excuse is this! The Contract so often mentioned to be made by this Gentleman, had for the present fill'd the Minds of the People, and filled them with so reasonable Expectations of having Publick Credit restored, that it gave full Opportunity for those, who were in the Secret, to sell at Four hundred, what, after this Contract was render'd void, they might have bought again at Ninety: A Proceeding which very well deserves the Epithet bestow'd on it by an excellent Writer, *viz. That it was one of the compleatest Pieces of Manage-*

Management, as it was undoubtedly one of the wickedest Contrivances, of that so memorable Year. To what End then is all the ridiculous flourishes of this Writer, throughout the rest of his Paper, who would put on an Air of Triumph for having declined an Engagement, and impudently give out, he has defended a Point, which he does not so much as seem to understand. Who trifles with that universal Ruin threaten'd by the *South-Sea* Scheme, and saucily sports with the Miseries of a Nation, while he is endeavouring to make his Compliments to one, who, I dare say, will never become his Patron. His raking into the Ashes of the late Earl of *Oxford*, on whom he would basely charge those Evils, consequent of Sir J. B.'s Scheme, which 'tis notoriously known he refused to make use of in the manner it was afterwards put in Practice, is another Instance both of his Modesty and his Morals; but as there is nothing farther in that Paper which can deserve an Animadversion, I shall leave it to its Author to contemplate the Beauty of his last Paragraph, in turning the Screen upon the *Craftsman*, and the exquisite Stroke of Panegyrick, in immediately calling a certain Great Man the Shield of *Great Britain*; the Wit of which, as I take it, consists in a distant Allusion to a Metal of which Shields, when in use, were made.

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Although this Gasconade of the *Hyp-Doctor's* might have induced me to explain this Point, especially since by a Paragraph in one of the Daily Papers, a Person who had never seen this Defence, might possibly have been led into a Mistake, and believed something had been advanced in it to justify, or at least which had palliated the Iniquity of that Affair; yet it would hardly have engaged me to trouble the Publick so soon with a second Part, had not *Francis Walsingham*, of the *Inner Temple*, Esq, in his *Free Briton* of September 16, 1731. roused me, and by entring on his Subject with such Airs of his not being answered before in two Months, tho' he had always replied in ten Days at the most, extorted from me, (to use his own Phrase) the following Replication; before I enter upon which, I think it my Duty to ask Mr. P's Pardon in disobeying the Request made in the *Craftsman* of the 4th of September, that no Friends of that most worthy Gentleman's would trouble themselves farther with this Controversy, unless a certain Great Man himself should revive it. The Language of the *Free Briton* before me, has, I acknowledge, put me upon an Undertaking which engages me to make this excuse, altho' the Vanity, Self-sufficiency and Insolence of that Piece, have so much the Air of its Patron, that I have almost been led to think it is the very Case in which I might have proceeded without it.

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To prevent Mistakes also, it is fit I premise to the Author of that Paper, whoever he be, whether the honourable Mr. *Walsingham*, or that far more honourable Gentleman of seventeen Generations, that I proceed upon no other Principles than those of a disinterested *Briton*, who apprehends the present Storm raised by the Advocates of Power against the most worthy Person traduced in the *Free Briton* I before mentioned, is occasioned solely by the steady adherence of that Gentleman to the Cause of his Country, which is sufficient therefore to engage every true Lover of the Constitution in his Defence. I do not pretend to enter farther into secret and more especially into Family Matters, than as they have been known to all the Town; nor indeed (except in one or two Places) is there any Necessity for it, to answer this Writer, whom had it been otherwise, I would not have undertaken; but as it now stands, it is in the Language of our Author only, to *disembroil those Matters which he has confounded and jumbled together with equal Malice and Confusion*; and all he has said will meet with the fullest Refutation, which, I flatter myself, will be made good in the following Pages, and if it is not, must be, I am confident, wholly owing to my own Insufficiency; since the Charge itself, instead of being supported by Truth or Argument, is wholly founded in Misrepresentations, glossed

glossed with a great deal of Sophistry and Equivocation.

In that short detail of this Dispute, which Mr. *Walsingham* here gives us, 'tis fairly owned that the Dedication of a Pamphlet, entitled, *Sedition and Defamation displayed*, published in *January* last, was the Occasion of all that has been written since on both Sides: Who then has the most nobly descended Gentleman to thank for whatever has been said of him in the Course of the Debate, but whoever was prevailed on to write that Paper, which has however, in some measure, answer'd his Designs, by having first proved a fair Step to a Murder, and serving since for the Basis of almost as infamous a Design, that of blasting the Character of a Gentleman without a Stain, and till then free even from an Imputation; since then he is avowedly the Aggressor, since the purpose of the same Pamphlet has been carried on in the famous Remarks, the *Free Briton* of the 1st of *July*, and this now before us, it cannot, I suppose, pass for a strained Deduction, that the whole is submitted to the Publick Judgment, and every Man at liberty to make and publish whatever Observations thereon he shall think fit. To proceed then in the same Method with Mr. *Walsingham*, let us examine every Article of his Charge against Mr. P. and see whether from the Character of a virtuous, gene-

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rous, disinterested, uncorrupt Patriot, which he has hitherto born, they will be able to sink him into a scraping, envious, positive, corrupt Malecontent, the Light in which so much Money has been spent and Pains taken to place him.

The first Objection to his Conduct arises from his having declaimed against all Bounties and Pensions : As the first impeachment of his Honour is a Charge of receiving a Present from the late King to the value of 1637 l. 17 s. by this means, to use the Epithets of our Author, sharing the Bounties, and adding to the *Pensions* of the *Crown* in the most *notorious* manner, notwithstanding he has so often harangued against the Danger and Grievousness of such sort of Publick Expences. This is an Accusation with a Witness, and which I know not how to defend, but by asking in what this Present was couched? For, by this way of expressing it, 'tis plain it was not Money. Why, no truly, our Author confesses it was in 286 Volumes of Parliament Rolls, Lords Journals and Commons Journals; but that, according to his way of telling it, makes the Matter still worse; for, would ye believe it, these very Books were an express Bribe to Mr. P. for making the Report against *Plunket*, *Kelly*, and the late Bishop of *Rocheester*, in the *House of Commons*; on which he begs leave to remind him (Mr. P.) that

that the late Mr. *Hungerford* was expelled the House of Commons for receiving twenty Guineas, after having been Chairman of the Orphans Bill; nay, Sir *John Trevor*, the then Speaker, lost the Chair of the House for accepting a thousand Guineas after the passing that Bill. Immediately upon this Mr. *Walsingham* breaks out into the following Exclamation, *What then would they have done with a Chairman of a Committee, whose Report was the Foundation and Support of so many Bills of Pains and Penalties?* I confess I was under the greatest surprize at the reading of these and several subsequent Paragraphs. Could one possibly have believed, that the Spleen of any Man, how great soever, would have swelled so high, as, in order to blacken the Character of a Gentleman who had opposed him, to reflect on the Publick Justice of the Nation, and insinuate that the imprisoning two Persons for Life in the *Tower*, and sending a Bishop of the Church of *England* into Exile, hoary with Years, and laden with Afflictions, was owing to a Bribe given by the Crown to a Chairman of the House of Commons, for making his Report the Foundation and Support of those Bills by which these Penalties were inflicted? Who was it that presided at the Treasury Board the 31st of *January*, 1723, when this large Sum was, as our Author says, paid upon this Occasion? Was he neither a Member of the House of Commons, nor of his Majesty's Privy Coun-

cil? Or did he, in Contempt of his Oaths, keep this Secret from both Assemblies, to the Ruin of those unfortunate Persons, (as Mr. *Walsingham* calls them) and to the irretrievable Dishonour of the Nation? If this be true, what does he deserve for his Concealment? And if it be false, how infamous an Attempt was it for him to propagate it, or suffer his *hireling* to do it, in order not only to asperse the Reputation of Mr. P. but impiously also to insult a Memory too sacred even to be mentioned on this occasion? And that this last was really the Case, I shall endeavour to convince my Readers, by telling them how this Transaction happen'd, according to my Information. His late Majesty hearing that Mr. P. was settling his Library, willing to bestow on him some Mark of his Favour, and knowing of how different a Turn of Soul he was from the other Courtiers, how little desirous of Money, and how far from being rapacious, he thought proper in his Royal Wisdom and Beneficence, to make him a Present of these Parliamentary Proceedings, which, in this Light, will, I dare say, be so far from looking like a Bribe in the Eyes of my Readers, that they will appear on the contrary a Gift most worthy of a Monarch, to honour a Subject who had given the greatest Proofs of his Attachment to his Majesty, and equally proper to be received by a Patriot ever zealous for the Freedom and Constitution of his Country.

But

To But 'tis time that we should follow Mr. *Walsingham* thro' his next Charge, *viz.* Of Mr. P.'s adding to the Pensions of the Crown. Here is another most extraordinary Course of Arguments tack'd together; extraordinary I call them, because I believe nothing like them ever appeared before. 'Tis admitted, says this candid Author, by himself, *i. e.* Mr. P. that about the time in which those great Services were carrying on in the House of Commons, he (Mr. P.) took a great liking to the Cofferers Office, and insisted upon having that Employment. He might as well have laid out what he would here again have understood, *viz.* that Mr. P. unsatisfied with a Present to the amount of Sixteen hundred Guineas, took a liking (as 'tis our Author's expression) to the Cofferers Office, which it seems on account of those Services then carrying on in the House of Commons, was not thought proper to be refused him. This, tho' a notorious untruth with respect to Mr. P. is certainly an admirable Lesson for the *British* Nation; and if there were any occasion for auxiliary Arguments, would furnish an excellent one for inforcing the *Pension Bill*, when it comes next to be debated. But to go on in his order: To make Way for Mr. P. it is said, that a noble Lord, whose Name I am unfeignedly sorry should be so much as glanced at upon this occasion, was made Groom of the Stole, and had its usual Salary (which

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all Parties acknowledge he deserves) of 5,000 *l. per Annum*. This is what Mr. *Walsingham* calls adding to the publick Expences; and affirms, the two Years Salary amounting to 10,000 *l.* made a fiftieth Part of the Deficiency of 500,000 *l.* afterwards made good by Parliament. But, good Mr. *Walsingham*, in return for all your Innuendo's, give me leave to take Notice, that I never heard the Nation or the Parliament murmured at the continuance of ancient Places and Salaries, especially when so well bestowed as on that noble Lord; no, they always regarded these, as properly issuing out of those large Sums appropriated to the Civil List, and which were expressly granted for the Support of the Honour and Dignity of the Crown. Mr. P. himself has fully explained this Point, in what we are informed he said to his late Majesty, in relation to the Civil List Debt, which P. had opposed the Payment of in the House of Commons, his Majesty remonstrating that it was hard he would not suffer him to be an honest Man, &c. After this Exposition, Mr. P. with a Virtue worthy of *Briton*, humbly represented to his Majesty, that the opposition he had made was only to shew the unnecessary Profusion which was made by SECRET SERVICE MONEY, &c. and that the Money which would have paid his honest Tradesmen was this Way diverted. 'Tis these vast, unknown, unaccountable Expences, not
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the keeping up the ancient Places and Splendor of the Court, that can possibly create a grudging or excite a Spirit of enquiring in the People; whom Mr. *Walsingham*, like his Patron, treats with the utmost Contempt, giving this shrewd Reason for suspecting the Truth of that Conference which Mr. P. recites between his late Majesty and himself, that the King is therein said to have expressed a Concern for the payment of his Butcher, his Baker, &c. This, he says, looks rather as if calculated to promote a little *Mob-Popularity*, than as the Speech of his Majesty; impudently insinuating such Cares to be below a Prince. Perhaps he may raise me to the Honour of being call'd a *Mob-Author*, for averring I had rather be a Butcher, a Baker, nay, a Cobler, than a *hireling Scribler*, at ever so great a Rate, whose Pen must be weekly employ'd in misrepresenting his Subjects to their Prince, and stirring up Dissention among the People. But to return to his Tale of the Pension; it was first objected to that noble Patriot, (whose Defence I think the greatest Honour, to have undertaken) in the Remarks on the *Craftsman's Vindication*, &c. in the *Free Briton* of the 1st of July, 'tis retracted, nay, 'tis owned to be so great a Mistake, that 'tis urged as a convincing Argument why the most noble Gentleman could not write those Remarks; now 'tis resumed, and for the sake of a Stroke on Mr. *B-ttle*, a Gentleman who is undoubtedly equally

equally an Honour both to the Bar and to the House ; the Place is next averred to be a Pension, and Mr. P. branded with the Name of a *Pensionary-Place-Man*, to sooth the Envy of *him* who cannot reflect on Mr. P.'s real Character with Patience.

The next Charge is with relation to the mighty Sum of Two hundred Pounds a Year, added to the Office of Secretary at War, while possessed by Mr. P. in lieu of a House. The *Craftsman* of the 4th of September set this in the clearest Light ; we are from thence informed, that Mr. P. found on his coming into this Office, the House appropriated to the Secretary had been begg'd by Mr. *Blathwait*, a new House being then building at the expence of the Crown, very near the War Office. Mr. P. ask'd it in the Place of that which had been begg'd ; the King granted it ; but having been before designed for an Officer of the Board of *Green-Cloth*, that Board thought fit to petition his Majesty, who refused to recal his Promise to Mr. P. unless that Gentleman consented ; Mr. P. did so ; and the King was graciously pleased to order, that Two hundred Pounds *per Annum* should be given to the War Office, in Consideration of the House which had formerly belong'd to it. Having stretch'd, exaggerated and misrepresented this Story, as much as his Wit would give him leave, he comes next to the proper

proper Business of a Writer in his Station, the palliating a Boon asked of the Crown, which, according to Custom, is sunk in its Value so far, that, at the outside, it does not exceed Eleven hundred Pounds; but tho' on other occasions he has shewn us his Skill in Numbers, yet here we meet not with the least appearance of Calculation; but are modestly desired to believe, on the Word of Mr. *Walsingham*, that a House on which his Patron has laid out such vast Sums, was really and in itself worth no more than he has appraised at. But suppose we should, nay, and even admit all the Apology he makes for't; what then? Will all his Exaggerations on the one Side, and all his Arts of softening on the other, make any doubt the Truth of that Assertion which so gauls him, That Mr. P. did not follow his most noble Patron's Example? And that he scorned to beg the other House for himself, but ask'd it FOR the Office, not FROM the Office. Is not this literally true? Does not all the World know it? And will Mr. *Walsingham*, or his Patron, be ever able to perswade them to the contrary? No, no! They are both too well known by their Country to deceive it; and, for once, we take Mr. *Walsingham's* advice, in proportioning our respect to them: We judge them by their Fruit.

Mr. *Walsingham* is extremely fond of drawing Parallels between his Patron, and a Gentleman, whose Character is such, that our Author thinks his Great Man is to be best vindicated, by giving them, if possible, a likeness. 'Tis palpably such a desire which induced him to talk of preferring Relations; and then enter into a Comparison, by giving us an account of no less than four of Mr. P.'s that had Places, without so much as mentioning more than one on the other Side, and he too an only Brother. Are we to take it for granted there are no more then? Or is Mr. *Walsingham* not so thoroughly informed in't? But as I hate to speak without Book, I shall quote a few Lines from a Pamphlet published some Years ago, and whose Authority cannot be questioned. They consist of a few negative Interrogatories, which the *Free Briton* would do well to answer. The Author is comparing the then M——y with something he calls a *Robinocracy*, that preceded it, which being now banished, says he, we shall have no Pensions asked for disaffected Relations: No Thousands a Year to any disaffected Man, because he is Uncle to a Man in Power: Nor shall an honest Man be turned out of Place, for an Uncle to be quarter'd on his Successor. I shall not mention any thing of Reversions granted to Children, because they may grow up honest Men, and deserve them. *Robinocracy* is a hard Word. I wish Mr. *Walsing-*

Walsingham would explain it, tell us how much Truth there was in this at the time 'twas spoken, and whether nothing like it has ever happened since? Nay, now I am got into his Road of asking Questions, let me be indulged in a Request or two more. Did you, Mr. *Walsingham*, never hear of a Family so much exalted, that a Man's application to the Steward might advance him to a handsome Employment? Or a proper Acquaintance with a *Welsh* Footman, procure one a small Place in the Customs, or so?

As there is no other Instance offered by this Writer, to support what he would have called *Corruption* in Mr. B. and thereby rob him of that Reputation which he justly possesses, and lessen him in the Esteem of his Country, who honour him at present with universal Praises and Applause, I judge it most proper to sum up all the Evidence on that Topick here, and submit it to every impartial Reader, whether a Gentleman, who, as it is confess'd even by *Sedition* and *Defamation* itself, came into the World with all the Advantages that recommend Men to the Esteem, Favour and Approbation of Mankind, who, in the Remarks themselves, is admitted to have an Estate of Nine thousand Pounds *per Annum* by Descent, and even that Nine thousand Pounds a Year owned by the *Free*

Briton before us to be the Bulk only, not the whole of his Fortune ; I submit it, I say, whether a Man of this Character, and in this Condition of Life, is likely to be bribed by the Present of a valuable Book from his Prince, to be influenced by Two hundred Pounds *per Annum*, paid him for two Years ; or corrupted thro' the desire of raising Relations, who were far from wanting, and whose Merits were great enough to have raised themselves ? Or whether the Story itself doth not carry all the Marks of burning Envy, and an impotent Malice, which, having raked together all they have ever heard, and heighten'd with all they could invent, yet leave their Tale at last not only void of Probability, but swell'd with Contradictions ?

The next labour of our Author, and consequently of mine, who have undertaken to follow him, is to a Survey of Mr. P.'s Ground Rents ; in which, having taken the trouble of running thro' I don't know how many Lanes, Streets, Allies and By-Places ; I confess I'm a little out of Humour to find it was only to convince me of the difference between letting out Houses, and letting Land upon a Building Lease ; because, had it been first talked of, I would have readily owned it ; tho' I can't be quite so Complaisant as to think, that enjoying an Estate (once Crown Lands) left by one's Ancestors,

Ancestors, and for all we know bought with their Money, is all one with begging (while the Nation is charged with so many Debts) a House, tho' it were but of 1,100*l.* value, especially if one at the same time purloin it from the Publick Office that he hath enjoyed. As to a great Part of what follows, it relates wholly to private Character and Family Affairs, which can no way have relation to the Publick; and therefore, from the Nature of my Work, I am absolved from taking any Notice of it.

However, thus much I think for the sake of the Publick I ought to remark, with regard to the Substance of the *Free Briton's* Observations on Mr. P.'s Fortune, that it is not a little hard that a Person should be employ'd at the expence of the T——y, (and the World must agree at no very inconsiderable expence neither) not only to sift into a Person's own Actions, but ransack the Deeds and Writings of his Family: And since no Objections but what all who read may answer can be made to the first, therefore the most malicious Stories are to be trump up on the second, which from its Nature is and ought to be kept Secrer. The great and noble Patron of the *Free Briton*, was certainly at liberty to bid his Amanuensis *Walsingham* give us the Tree of the ancient and most honourable Family of

of the *W.'s* ; and I shall have no Objection to that which he has given, if he will be so good to tell us, of what Antiquity those Records are at *Walpole St. Peter's* ; he had, I say, an undoubted Right to publish this, because, one may suppose, his Patron need be nothing out of Pocket to obtain it, at least upon this occasion. But the Offices, the Rolls, the Settlements, and other Enquiries into Mr. P's Ground Rents, must have cost much trouble in the search, and put whoever paid for it to a vast Expence. I dare say these, and many such like Items, (if one could but see them) are charged by Mr. *Walsingham* to the Account of *Secret Services* ; and as such, make a pretty considerable Rivulet among the many Streams which flow into the bottomless Gulph of that Name, and divert the Money which used to be employ'd in the Payment of such great Offices as, in our Author's new Court Dialect, are to pass for Pensions.

Mr. *Walsingham* has now reached that crabbed, unlucky Story, which, tho' averred on the Honour of Mr. P. is still so improbable that no Body believes it. Yet so faithful is this Pensioner to his Patron, that he will not so much as let People alone in their unbelief ; he must still exaggerate the improbability of the Great Man's saying such shocking Things to Mr. P. and
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by a peculiar Vein of Political Reasoning, calls what he and his Associates have urged on this Topick, Evidence. Evidence of what? Why, of the Wickednesses, Folly and Falshood of the Story, which he acknowledges. However, his Patron has not thought fit to contradict it; and why, because if the Story be true, such a Contradiction would not make it false. But the Evidence that has been produced is sufficient to make it be believed false, and that's all one. Well, let's examine this Evidence, Mr. *Walsingham*; and that you may say you have met with a fair Enemy, I will even admit almost what you will. I own, there is a great deal both of Wickedness and Folly appears in the Story; but in whom, certainly in him who said those shocking Things to Mr. P. which, tho' one should come so far as to acknowledge, 'twas strange he should say them, we cannot help believing he did say, because it stands fully proved. And Probability or Improbability weighs nothing against Proof. The Law makes Horse-stealing Death; 'tis therefore highly improbable any Man should venture at it; but does that satisfy a Court that nobody can be guilty of it? I remember a certain Person, then in a great Station, was accused of taking a dirty Five hundred Pounds on a Forage Contract. This Gentleman insisted much in the manner you do,

do, how improbable it was : But there happened, as in this Case, to be positive Proof ; which he could not deny. And so de ye see, the Story was not only thought true, but he was found guilty. Nay indeed, were it otherwise, it would become the highest Prudence to act like a Fool ; and the Blunders of a Blockhead would prove a surer Defence than the most refined Arts of a Statesman.

But to proceed : An improbable, disbelieved Calumny, seldom raises either a great or a lasting Uneasiness in any Man's Breast whatsoever ; and yet what a Stir, what an Eclat, has there been made about this ? *Courants* in the Van ; *Free Britons* and Letters to Mr. P. in the Main Body ; *London* and *Register Journals* in the Wings ; and at last this *Corps de Reserve* in the Rear ; and then, contrary to all manner of Discipline, the *Forlorn Hope* is drawn up in the Rear of this. I was at first much at a loss to account for this Way of Proceeding, 'till recollecting the Assurance with which all this Army of Writers had asserted, that a Piece of the Nature of Mr. P.'s Account of the M——s Conversation, might be propagated without having in it one Word of Truth. I took it for granted, that this was all they intended to build their Defence upon ; when, it seems, their true Scheme was an
offensive

offensive Plan, which they have put in execution thus. Mr *Walsingham* having first exclaimed furiously against all mentioning of *Private Conversations* on *Publick Debates*, especially when they are supposed to have passed in the Privacies of Kings, and are consequently Injuries to their sacred Characters, goes on in these Words.

“ Suppose any Man whatever, at the accession of our most gracious Sovereign, who, in quality of a *Privy-Counsellor*, had a Right to approach his Person even in the Clofet, and to ask an Audience to that end. Suppose that when the Administration was not yet declared, and all Parties, all Persons, applying for the Favours of the Crown, that such a Man (if such a Man there were) did undertake, on the Foundation of his own imagined Interest, to obtain the King a Revenue of 800,000 *l. per Annum*, as it hath been since established, and to outbid the Minister whom he opposed, did offer more than that Minister could in Conscience, or from Duty to his Country, pretend to offer. Suppose that such a Man, (if any such there were) did even offer to discharge his Majesty's Household from the Tax of *Six-pence in the Pound*, upon all the Salaries of the *Civil List Establishment*; did further offer to charge this Tax of 30,000 *l. per Annum* upon the

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“ *Sinking*

“ *Sinking Fund*, that *sacred Depositum*,
 “ that *invulnerable Property*; and did thereby
 “ offer to take away so large a Sum from
 “ the *yearly Reduction* of our *National*
 “ *Debts*, which must have been postponed
 “ in their final Discharge for many Years,
 “ in proportion to the common Rate of
 “ Compound Interest; as also that this
 “ Man, (if such there were) would really
 “ have undertaken this *wicked*, this *cor-*
 “ *rupt* and *mercenary Jobb*; it the *great Inte-*
 “ *grity*, and *sacred Honour* of the KING,
 “ had not scorned, and abhorred to give
 “ up his People in this infamous Way of
 “ *Bargain and Sale*, or to purchase the
 “ Service of any Man, what Popularity or
 “ Importance he might give himself the
 “ Air of, or whatever *Bribes* such a Man
 “ might offer his Prince to intrust him
 “ with Power.”

I dare say, Mr. *Walsingham* would be
 mightily disappointed, if his Readers should
 be so dull as not to guess at the intent of
 these *Supposes*. To rid him of his Pain then,
 I assure him that they do; and that they
 have the same Degree of Credit with them
 as all the rest of his *Supposes* ever had. They
 will never acquit the Guilty for being im-
 pudently Clamorous; nor suffer the Innocent
 to sink in their Opinion from Impurations
 so ill told. The known Virtue, Candor
 and Veracity of Mr. P. have raised him to
 being

being the Darling of his Country ; and such impotent Surprizes, without pretence of Proof, may do him Service but never Hurt. Whence would the Author of the *Free Briton* insinuate he had the Matter of this base, this scandalous Asperſion ? Or whom will he next charge with breaking in upon the Privacies of their P——, not to utter Truths important to the Publick, but to ſuggeſt Stories to ruin a Patriot's Character, whoſe only Crime with his Enemies is his being a true Patriot, equally worthy of the People's Love, and happy in their Affection ? But I make no queſtion of ſeeing the private Paſſages mentioned in this Invective, explained by an abler and better inſtructed Hand. All that I have ſaid being in Right of my Office, as an *Inquiſitor* for my Country, who could not tamely ſee ſuch an Outrage offered to him, the Buſineſs of whoſe Life it has been both to *ſerve* and to *adorn* it.

F I N I S.

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